

Message Text

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61

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SP-02 /057 W

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P R 081900Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1875

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

US MISSION GENEVA 160

UNCLAS QUITO 7306

DEPT PASS ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

DEPT. PLEASE PASS HOROWITZ TO LABOR DEPARTMENT (PRIORITY)

FOR: HOROWITZ, SEGALL, AVERY AND LINSSENMEYER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ILO, EC

SUBJECT: ILO: QUITO MEETING THE INTER-AMERICAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY: THE FIFTH INTER-AMERICAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING GOT UNDER WAY IN QUITO OCTOBER 5 AS SCHEDULED. THE MEETING HAS PROCEEDED ROUTINELY WITH NO POLEMICS. THE USDEL HAS HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO DATE TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC ILO ACTIVITIES BECAUSE THE DISCUSSION HAS BEEN TOO GENERALIZED. END SUMMARY

2. THE FIFTH INTER-AMERICAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE ILO MEETING BEGAN ITS WORK AS SCHEDULED IN QUITO OCTOBER 5. GOE MINISTER OF LABOR, COL. FRANCISCO AGUIRRE, WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING, AND THEN IMMEDIATELY ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS LEAVING TO ATTEND AN ANDEAN PACT LABOR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN COLOMBIA. GOE SUB-SECRETARY OF LABOR, ALFONSO PEREZ, WAS ELECTED TO PRESIDE IN THE MINISTER'S ABSENCE. IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS MINISTER AGUIRRE HAD SOME CRITICAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE ILO, SAYING THAT IT NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN ITS ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA.

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3. P.D. BUTCHER (PANAMA) WAS ELECTED WORKERS' VICE CHAIRMAN AND FERNANDO YLLANES (MEXICO) WAS ELECTED VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE EMPLOYERS. IRVING BROWN (USA) HAS SERVED AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE WORKERS AND A. VITAIC (ARGENTINA) HAS SERVED AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE EMPLOYERS.

4. ATTENDANCE HAS BEEN FULL, EXCEPT FOR THE WORKERS' SIDE. ONLY GUYANA, PANAMA, VENEZUELA AND THE U.S. HAVE WORKER REPRESENTATION. ARGENTINA, COLOMBIA, JAMAICA AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HAD ALSO REGISTERED TO SEND WORKER REPRESENTATIVES, BUT NONE HAS APPEARED. FROM THE EMPLOYERS' GROUP, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, CHILE, USA, ARGENTINA, MEXICO, NICARAGUA, BRAZIL AND JAMAICA ARE REPRESENTED. THERE ARE PRESENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES FROM ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CANADA, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, HONDURAS, MEXICO, NICARAGUA, PANAMA, VENEZUELA, THE U.S., AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. REPRESENTATIVES FROM CUBA AND PERU, THOUGH ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO ATTEND, HAVE NOT ARRIVED.

5. TO THIS POINT, DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN VERY LOW KEY AND NO ONE HAS ENGAGED IN POLEMICS. THE US DELEGATION AGREED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE TO ENGAGE IN A DEBATE ON THE RATIFICATION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF ILO CONVENTIONS BY INDIVIDUAL STATES SINCE ALMOST ALL OF THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED COULD BE PROPERLY CRITICIZED ON THIS POINT. THERE HAS BEEN EXPRESSED A CONSENSUS THAT THE ILO COULD IMPROVE ITS EFFECTIVENESS BY A DECENTRALIZATION AND GREATER EMPHASIS ON REGIONAL ACTIVITIES. THE USDEL CONTRIBUTED TO THAT DISCUSSION BY CAUTIONING THE DELEGATES THAT WHILE DECENTRALIZATION IS DESIRABLE, ANY ILO DECENTRALIZATION SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PROPORTIONATE REDUCTION OF THE ILO GENEVA OFFICE AND A STREAMLINING OF ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS.

6. BOTH THE WORKERS AND THE EMPLOYERS' GROUPS HAVE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THEY ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE SUFFICIENTLY IN THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF IN-COUNTRY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS OF THE ILO. THEY BELIEVE THAT THE TRIPARTITE NATURE OF THE ILO IS TOO OFTEN FORTGOTTEN IN SUCH PROJECTS AND COMPLAIN THAT PROGRAMS ARE GENERALLY

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DESIGNED WITH ONLY THE PARTICIPATION OF ILO AND GOVERNMENT TECHNICIANS.

7. TO THIS POINT THE DISCUSSION HAS BEEN VERY GENERAL AND HAS PRECLUDED THE POSSIBILITY FOR THE USDEL TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC ILO ACTIVITIES. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE MEETING WILL CONTINUE TO BE BUSINESSLIKE AND THAT POLITICAL ISSUES WILL NOT BE INTERJECTED.

CORR

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

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